

Questions to ask if you are considering getting a tattoo or body piercing:

To help identify licensed and sanitary establishments:

- Is the studio licensed by the Maine Eating and Lodging Program??
- Is the studio clean?
- Is new equipment used for each customer? All tools must be in sterilized bags and sealed.
- Does the artist make sure to sterilize the instruments and equipment for each customer use?
- Does the studio have its own autoclave and ultrasonic cleaner?
- Are new containers of ink used each time?
- Are new gloves used by the artist for each customer? Does he/she change gloves each time the glove comes in contact with a non-sterile surface?
- For body piercing, does the artist always use sterile, disposable needles and never a gun?
- Is the staff responsive to your questions? Does the studio provide specific oral and written instructions for taking care of your body art after the procedure?
- Does the artist have any references? (Make sure you check them out.)

Answers to all of these questions should be YES.

Additional Resources:

U. S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Office of Cosmetics and Colors Fact Sheets

<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/cos-204.html>

<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/cos-tatt.html>